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4080 Lemon Street, 3rd Floor • Riverside, CA 92501
Mailing Address: P O Box 12008 • Riverside, CA 92502-2208
(951) 787-7141 • Fax (951) 787-7920 • www.rctc.org

January 17, 2013

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Cynthia Brown
Chief, Section of Administration
Surface Transportation Board
395 E. Street, S W
Washington, DC 20423

Subject: STB Docket No AB-33 (Sub-No 296X), Petition for Abandonment Exemption of Two Segments of the Riverside Industrial Lead in California

Dear Ms Brown:

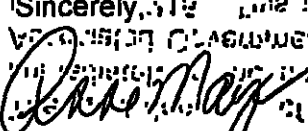
The Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC) is pleased to support the Union Pacific Railroad's letter dated January 4, 2013, that petitions the abandonment of portions of the Riverside Industrial Lead line. RCTC is the regional transportation agency for the county of Riverside in the state of California.

The abandonment of this line provides a benefit to both the county of San Bernardino, which is immediately to the north of Riverside County, and to the county of Riverside. The San Bernardino Associated Governments (SANBAG) and RCTC are currently partnering in a bi-county project to widen Interstate 215. This project was recently awarded a construction contract and is about to commence construction in February. The Riverside Industrial Lead line passes directly over the I-215 within the limits of the widening project. The approval of the abandonment in a timely manner will allow the construction of these much needed freeway improvements to proceed on schedule.

Additionally, RCTC owns the San Jacinto Branch Line (SJBL), which intersects with the Riverside Industrial Lead line. This abandonment will result in significant benefit to the operations of the Metrolink passenger rail service, which will run on the SJBL. This project, known as the Perris Valley Line, is currently under development and is anticipated to begin service to the public in late 2014. Finally, the abandonment will have no adverse effect on shippers through this bi-county area.

RCTC therefore respectfully requests that the Surface Transportation Board approve Union Pacific's request for the abandonment of the rail line to allow the salvage of the railroad bridge over the I-215 freeway to begin by February 1, 2013.

We appreciate the opportunity to send this letter of support for this project. Please contact me at (951) 787-7141 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,


Anne Mayer
Executive Director